(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI):(a) to (c): The essential features of the policy relating to sugar production are as follows:—

(i) To licence adequate capacity through new sugar factories and expansion projects to meet the requirements of domestic consumption and exports.

(ii) To increase cane production commensurate with the licensed/ installed capacity.

(iii) Grant of incentives for early, mid and late crushing periods to sugar factories in the form of higher free sale sugar quota to encourage higher sugar production.

(iv) Grant of incentives to new sugar factories and expansion projects to enable them to service the loans taken by them from financial institutions for execution of these projects.

(v) Providing loans on concessional rates of interest for sugarcane development schemes and modernisation/ rehabilitation of sugar factories to increase productivity of cane and the sugar factory.

(vi) To follow a rational pricing policy so that the interest of the cane growers, industry and consumers are harmonised.

As regards imports, these are undertaken in the years of shortages. To augement the availability of open market sugar in the country, import of sugar has been placed under OGL duty free. For meeting the requirements of the public distribution system, STC / MMTC are importing the required quantity of sugar. Import of raw sugar has also been placed under OGL

The sugar policy is constantly under review of the Government and such measures as may be necessary including buffer stocking would be considerd by the Government at the appropriate time.

Sharing of Ganga Water

* 299. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI RAM NARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's have drawn up any plans on the sharing of Ganga water among the States through which it is flowing;

(b) whether any assessment has been made regarding the utilization of Ganga water by the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) how the Akash Ganga project will affect the availability of Ganga water in Bihar and West Bengal;

(d) whether there is any proposal to construct a dam across the river at Kanpur; and

(e) if so, what will be its environmental impact in the downstream?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) There is no such plan drawn up between Ganga basin states for sharing of Ganga Water.

(b) No assessment has been made regarding the utilisation of Ganga water in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Union Government has not received any scheme titled 'Akash Ganga Project' from the Ganga basin states.

(d) There is no proposal to construct a dam but only a barrage across the river Ganga at Kanpur.

(e) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has not submitted the Environment Impact Assesment Report to the Union Government for appraisal.

Prices of Urea

*300. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed to raise the prices of Urea at the time when monsoon starts; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for choosing such a time?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.